

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. – 18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A strap guiding assembly for pre-curving and guiding a strap into an accumulator of use on a strapping machine to guide a strap into an accumulator, the assembly comprising:

a first member;

a plurality of rollers rotationally coupled to the first member; and

a second member having a curved surface aligned with an entrance of a chamber of the accumulator for receiving the strap, wherein the first member is movably coupled to the second member to move between a first configuration for pre-curving a strap and a second configuration for delivering a pre-curved section of the strap through the entrance into the chamber of the accumulator, in which the strap is constrained between the curved surface and two or more of the plurality of rollers when the first member is in the first configuration and a second configuration in which the strap is unconstrained and free to move into the accumulator when the first member is in the second configuration, and wherein the two or more of the plurality of rollers are configured to follow a path complementary to at least a portion of the curved surface.

20. (Previously Presented) The strap guiding assembly of claim 19 wherein the curved surface is convex and oriented toward the accumulator to give the strap an initial curvature when the assembly is in the first configuration such that the strap will tend to move into the accumulator when the assembly moves into the second configuration.

21. (Previously Presented) The strap guiding assembly of claim 19 wherein the first member moves toward the second member when the assembly moves into the first configuration, and moves away from the second member when the assembly moves into the second configuration.

22. (Previously Presented) The strap guiding assembly of claim 19, further comprising an actuation mechanism to selectively move the assembly between the first and second configurations.

23. (Previously Presented) The strap guiding assembly of claim 19 wherein a curve intersecting a respective centerline of the plurality of rollers is substantially similar to at least a portion of the curved surface of the second member.

24. (Currently Amended) A strap guiding assembly to guide a strap, the assembly comprising:

a first member;

a plurality of rollers rotationally mounted to the first member;

a second member having a curved surface; and

an actuation mechanism to translationally move the first member ~~into one of between a first position or and a second position, the first position wherein the first member is in close proximity to the second member to allow two or more of the plurality of rollers to cooperate with the curved surface of the second member to forcibly guide the strap along at least a portion of the curved surface when the first member is in the first position, the second position wherein the first member is spaced apart from the second member when the first member is in the second position such that the two or more of the plurality of rollers are spaced apart from the strap.~~

25. (Previously Presented) The strap guiding assembly of claim 24 wherein the first member is biasly coupled to the second member.

26. (Currently Amended) ~~A strap guiding assembly to guide a~~ An ~~accumulator assembly for a strapping machine~~, the assembly comprising:

an accumulator defining a chamber for holding a strap and an entrance of the
chamber sized to receive the strap;

a strap guiding assembly positioned and configured to deliver a curved section of
the strap through the entrance and into the chamber of the accumulator, the strap guiding
assembly comprising:

a first member;

a plurality of rollers rotationally mounted to the first member;

a second member having a curved surface; and

an actuation mechanism to move the first member ~~into one of~~ between a first position ~~and~~ or a second position, ~~the first position wherein~~ a guide channel is located between the plurality of rollers and the curved surface of the second member to forcibly guide the strap along at least a portion of the curved surface when the first
member is in the first position, the second position wherein the first member is spaced apart from the second member to eliminate the guide channel when the first member is in
the second position.

27. (Currently Amended) A strap guiding assembly comprising:

surface means having a curved portion;

roller means cooperating with the surface means to guide a strap along the curved portion of the surface means; and

actuation means for moving the roller means axially apart from the surface means to allow the strap to move away from the curved portion of the surface means and into an accumulator.

28. (Withdrawn) A method for guiding a strap into an accumulator of a strapping machine, the method comprising:

guiding the strap into a region formed by a first member and a second member, the second member having a curved surface, a plurality of rollers rotationally coupled to the first member, wherein the rollers are positioned along a path that is substantially complementary to at least a portion of the curved surface of the second member; and

moving the first member proximate the second member to constrain the strap between the curved surface of the second member and the plurality of rollers rotationally coupled to the first member.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 28, further comprising:

giving the strap an initial curvature by urging the strap through the region toward the accumulator.

30. (New) A strapping machine for bundling objects, the strapping machine comprising:

an accumulator assembly comprising:

an accumulator configured to hold a strap used by the strapping machine, the accumulator defining a chamber and an entrance to the chamber; and

a strap guiding assembly positioned and configured to deliver a bent section of the strap through the entrance and into the chamber of the accumulator, the strap guiding assembly comprising:

a first member;

a plurality of rollers rotationally mounted to the first member; and

a second member having a curved surface, the first member movable between a first position and a second position relative to the second member, at least two of the plurality of rollers and the curved surface of the second member cooperate to forcibly guide the strap along at least a portion of the curved surface so as to form the bent section of the strap when the first member is

in the first position, the at least two of the plurality of rollers spaced from the curved surface to permit the bent section of the strap to move away from the curved surface through the entrance into the chamber of the accumulator when the first member is in the second position.

31. (New) The strapping machine of claim 30, further comprising:

a track assembly extending substantially about a strapping station, the track assembly capable of receiving the strap suitable for bundling objects and then releasing the strap during a tensioning operation; and

a feed and tension unit for receiving the strap from the accumulator after the bent section of the strap is delivered from the strap guiding assembly into the chamber of the accumulator, the feed and tension unit including a plurality of drive and pinch wheels for guiding the strap along a generally V-shaped path.